

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Patel for the analysis set forth in the Office Action dated February 13, 2006. Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the proposed amendments and remarks presented herein.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 presently stands rejected as being anticipated by Walker.

In response to the previous Office Action, applicant argued a difference in structure and operation between Walker and the claimed invention. Applicant argued that the Walker reference needed to extrude radially against an under surface of a truncated triangular backup ring 42 pressing backup ring 42 into a cut out pocket 28 provided expressly to retain back up ring 42 (see column 3, line 10 of Walker). In contrast, applicant argued that the claimed invention in the present application extruded axially, and did not require a similar backup configuration or a cut out pocket.

The Examiner rejected applicant's argument based on an interpretation that when the seal of Walker extrudes it exerts both an axial force component and a radial force component against the back up ring.

Applicant respectfully submits that the axial versus radial argument remains a valid point of differentiation. While the Examiner's interpretation is that there would be a force with both an axial component and a radial component working against the back up ring of Walker, applicant respectfully submits that a radial component to the force acting upon the back up ring is not present in the claimed invention. Applicant has emphasized this difference by indicating in the language of the claim that the peripheral seal is extruded applying a force solely in an axial direction against the backing ring.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

In view of the foregoing amendment and arguments, the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}

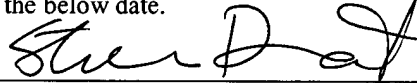


Kevan L. Morgan
Registration No. 42,015
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1712

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date:

4.12.2006



KLM:sdd

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100